

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A vending machine, which is operable to accept monetary units in a plurality of denominations, and to dispense change in at least one of said denominations but not in at least one further denomination, the vending machine having display means arranged to give first and second indications that insufficient change may be available from the machine to a customer making a purchase, the first indication being given as a warning prior to a transaction being initiated when the amount of available change in the machine is less than the value of the highest-value among said at least one further denomination ~~monetary unit~~, and the second indication being given after a transaction has been initiated and a monetary unit has been deposited, the second indication being given in dependence on parameters including the money available for change and the value of the deposited monetary unit, each indication being produced in response to the detection of a respective set of conditions.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A vending machine as claimed in claim 8 ~~12~~, wherein the circumstances giving rise to the second indication also cause the deposited monetary unit to be refunded.

14-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A vending machine which has a display means and which is operable, in response to selection of a product for vending, to compare the difference between the value of deposited money and the product price with the available change, and to inhibit the vend if that difference exceeds a predetermined allowable overpay amount, the machine being operable in these circumstances also to cause the display means to provide an indication that insufficient change may be available from the machine and to allow selection of a product of different price.

21-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A vending machine which is operable to prevent acceptance of a monetary unit in dependence on the availability of monetary units for dispensing as change and operable to inhibit a vend operation in dependence on a vend price, a credit value corresponding to the value of one or more accepted monetary units and the availability of monetary units for dispensing as change, said vending machine having display means arranged to provide an indication to a customer in response to receipt of a monetary unit which is so prevented from being accepted.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A vending machine as claimed in claim 25, wherein the display means is arranged to provide an indication to a customer when a vend operation is inhibited.

28. (Previously presented) A vending machine as claimed in claim 25, wherein the machine is arranged, when a vend has been inhibited, to allow a customer to select a vend at a different price.

29. (Original) A vending machine comprising:

means for accepting payments in units of different denominations, for performing vends, for determining that insufficient change is available, and for dispensing change, wherein if insufficient change is available then either (i) a lesser amount of change is dispensed or (ii) a requested vend is inhibited depending on whether the difference between the available change and the correct change is equal to or less than a predetermined allowable overpay amount;

means for providing a warning indication prior to initiating a transaction if the available change meets a predetermined criteria and if the allowable overpay amount is non-zero; and

means for permitting alteration of a stored parameter defining the allowable overpay amount.

30. (Original) A vending machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein the predetermined criterion is met when the available change is less than the value of the lowest denomination non-refundable payment unit.

31. (Original) A vending machine as claimed in claim 29, which is operable to provide an "exact change" indication to a customer when a requested vend is inhibited.

32. (Original) A vending machine as claimed in claim 31, wherein the machine is operable, when inhibiting a vend, to permit the customer to request a vend at a different price.